

## CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) In a data processing system with a distributed architecture including a plurality of processing entities computers, each entity computer playing at least one of a plurality of predetermined roles in the data processing system, a method of configuring the entities computers comprising:

defining a target configuration for each role based on a reference model for a software product, the reference model specifying for each role, components of the software product that are to be installed on an entity a computer having the role,

defining, in a transition table data structure, for each current state/target state pair of each component of the software product, an identifier of one or more actions required to reach the target state from the current state,

identifying, for each computer in the plurality of computers, at least one physical role of each entity in the plurality of processing entities, the physical role identifying at least one function the computer plays within the distributed architecture of the data processing system, or responsibility of the computer within the distributed architecture of the data processing system,

identifying, for each computer in the plurality of computers, at least one logical role, defined by a software configuration of the computer, and

configuring each entity computer according to a target configuration corresponding to the at least one physical role and the at least one logical role of the entity computer based on the current state/target state pairs in the transition table data structure, wherein:

the plurality of roles includes at least one physie role defined by an architecture of the system and at least one logic role defined by a software application installed in the system;

an indication of the physie physical role of each entity computer in a first set of entities computers of the plurality of processing entities computers is stored in a memory structure of the corresponding computer at an installation of the entity computer in the data processing system, the step of and identifying the at least one physical role of each

entity computer in the first set of entities including computers includes retrieving the indication of the corresponding physic physical role from the memory structure,

[[the]] a software application includes a plurality of software features, each logie logical role being associated with a corresponding software feature, and wherein identifying the at least one logical role of each entity computer in the plurality of processing entities computers includes:

detecting [[the]] a software feature installed on the entity computer, and  
establishing the logie logical role of the computer according to the installed software feature, and

wherein configuring each entity computer according to the target configuration includes:

detecting a current configuration of the entity computer,  
identifying at least one action required to reach the target configuration from the current configuration, and  
executing the at least one action on the computer.

2-12. (Canceled)